

STATEMENT OF THE CLAIMS

1. - 58. (cancelled)

59. (previously presented) A fixation plate for use with a plurality of fixation pegs having threaded heads and a K-wire, comprising:

a substantially rigid plate having an elongate body and a head, with said head angled upward relative to a plane containing said body, said head of said plate defining,

a first set of at least three peg holes which are obliquely oriented relative to each other and substantially arranged along a first line and a second set of peg holes substantially arranged along a second line, said first and second lines being longitudinally displaced, said peg holes each structurally adapted to engage the threaded head of one of the fixation pegs, wherein said peg holes of said first set laterally alternate with said peg holes of said second set, and

a non-threaded alignment hole having a substantially smaller diameter than any of said peg holes and sized to closely receive the K-wire, said non-threaded alignment hole sized to closely receive the K-wire in a predetermined fixed axial orientation which is oblique relative to a bone contacting surface of said plate and to said first set of peg holes, said non-threaded alignment hole located within the proximal-distal and medial-lateral boundaries defined between the edges of two adjacent peg holes of said first set of peg holes.

60. – 83. (cancelled)